

## Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 EUR-25 RSR-01 /123 W  
----- 079601

R 280416Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5253

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR VS

SUBJECT: TWENTY STUDENT/INTELLECTUALS SEEK ICCS HELP

REF: (A) SAIGON 13361 (B) STATE 145540

1. CANDEL SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT ON JULY 24 SPOKESMAN FOR 20 STUDENT/INTELLECTUALS HAD ASKED TO TALK WITH CANDEL REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ICCS PRISONER EXCHANGE OBSERVER TEAM AT LOC NINH. THE GROUP HAD NOT ACCEPTED GVN OFFERS TO "RALLY" AND HAD BEEN TURNED OVER BY THE RVN TO THE PRG (AFTER THE ICCS OBSERVER TEAM DEPARTED LOC NINH ON EVENING JULY 23). CANDEL AGREED TO A MEETING WITH SPOKESMAN BUT WITHOUT PRESENCE OF PRESS. WHEN GROUP INSISZED ON INCLUDING PRESS, CANDEL REFUSED TO TALK BUT AGREED TO ACCEPT LETTER FROM THE GROUP.

2. IN LETTER, GROUP CALLED ITSELF "MILITANTS STRUGGLING FOR PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD," WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED BY RVN FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. LETTER CLAIMED THE RVN HAD FORCED GROUP EITHER TO RETURN TO PRG OR TO BECOME  
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RALLIERS IF THEY WISHED TO RETURN TO SAIGON. THE GROUP REJECTED

SUCH A CHOICE AND DEMANDED UNCONDITIONAL FREEDOM. THE GROUP  
APPEALED TO THE ICCS TO QUOTE INTERFERE UNQUOTE WITH SAIGON  
AUTHORITIES TO BRING ABOUT SPEEDY AND SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

3. CANDEL TURNED LETTER OVER TO HUNGARIAN CHAIRMAN AND IT BECAME  
FIRST SUBSTANTIVE ORDER OF BUSINESS AT 79TH PLENARY ON JULY 25.  
ICCS DECIDED THAT A LETTER WOULD BE SENT TO BOTH PARTIES OF THE  
TPJMC ASKING THAT THEY RESOLVE THE PROBLEM SOON AND  
REQUESTED THAT ICCS BE INFORMED OF RESULTS.

4. COMMENT: INFORMED AND RELIABLE GVN SOURCES TELL US THAT THESE  
STUDENT/INTELLECTUALS, THOUGH FULLY INFORMED OF THEIR OPTION TO  
RALLY, MADE NO COMPLAINT WHEN TURNED OVER TO THE COMMUNISTS  
ON THE EVENING OF JULY 23. ONLY AFTER SPENDING A NIGHT WITH  
COMMUNISTS DID THEY DECIDE (ON JULY 24) TO DEMAND  
"UNCONDITIONAL FREEDOM." GVN REPRESENTATIVES AT LOC NINH  
WERE UNDERSTANDABLY SUSPICIOUS OF THE GROUP'S MOTIVES AND TOLD  
THEM IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THEM TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS. IT WAS THEN  
THAT THEY TURNED TO THE ICCS.

5. GVN CONSIDERS THAT THE "STUDENT/INTELLECTUALS" ARE ACTUALLY  
LOYAL COMMUNISTS AND THAT WHOLE AFFAIR WAS A COMMUNIST STRATAGEM  
TO EMBARRASS THE GVN; AND WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE. HOWEVER,  
THE COMMUNISTS DELEGATIONS TO THE ICCS HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO  
MAKE PROPAGANDA OUT OF THE INCIDENT AND THE WHOLE AFFAIR HAS  
BEEN PUSHED OUT OF THE NEWS BY THE IMBROGLIO OF JULY 24, WHEN THE  
COMMUNISTS AT LOC NINH STAGED A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST GVN  
POLICY OF NOT TURNING OVER PRISONERS WHO DECLARE A DESIRE TO RALLY.  
END COMMENT.  
MARTIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 28 JUL 1973  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS MARTIN  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TWENTY STUDENT/INTELLECTUALS SEEK ICCS HELP  
**TAGS:** MARR, VS  
**To:** STATE  
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